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## AN ARCHÆOLOGICAL VISIT TO JERUSALEM.

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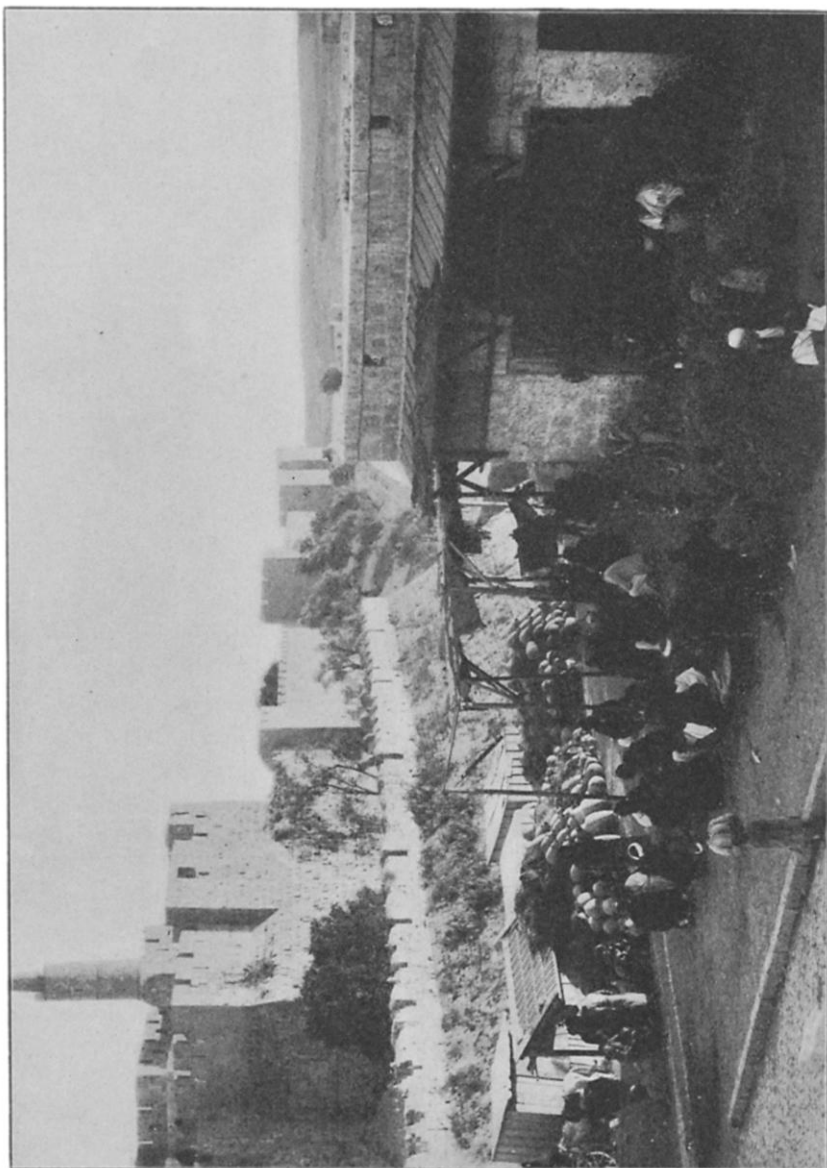
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Jerusalem, Syria.

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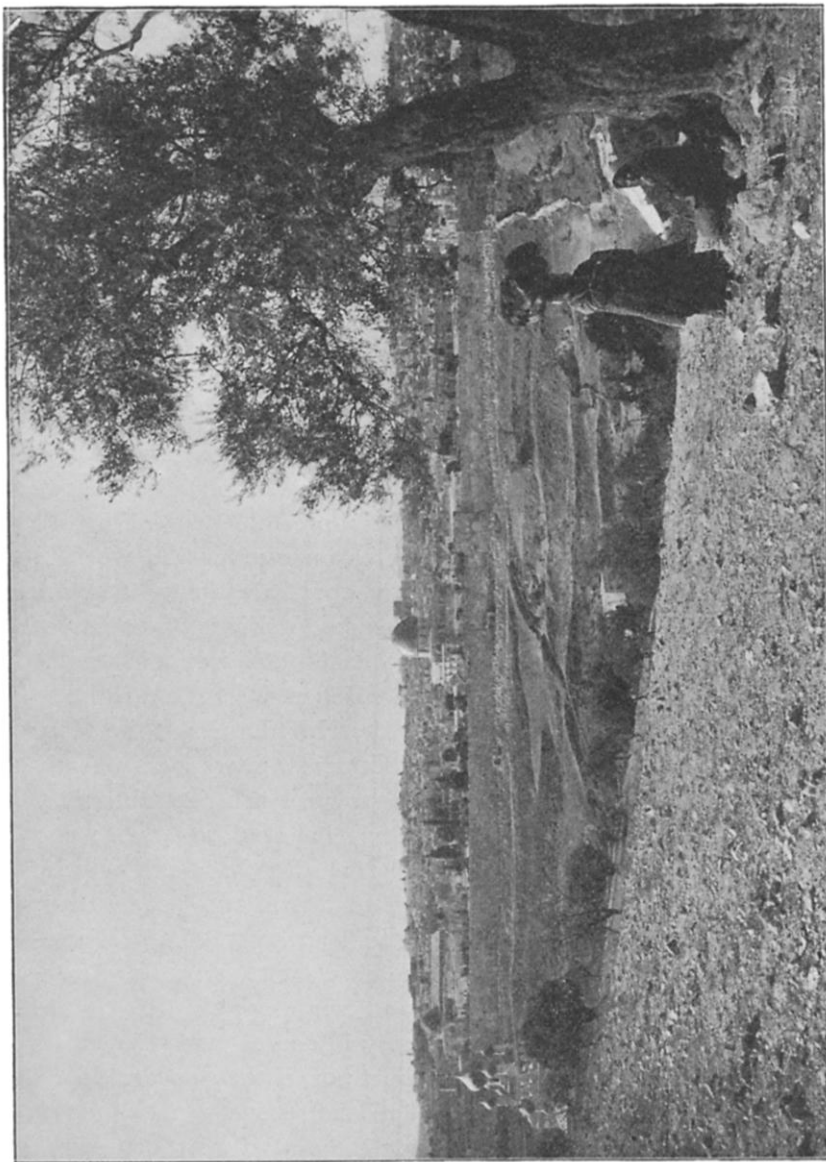
IN a former article <sup>1</sup> I conducted a Bible-class teacher from America to Jerusalem, described the first impressions of the Holy City, and also the subsequent or mature impressions, and mentioned some of the lessons which such a person would carry back with him to his work and study of the Bible.

It is now proposed to make an archæological visit to Jerusalem, and anyone who has sufficient interest in the subject to be a reader of this article shall accompany me. Some knowledge of the general outline of the city is presupposed before we begin our journey. This is not unreasonable, for the world is full of books and maps illustrative of Palestine; they are found in nearly every library. Besides, millions of copies of "helps" are published every year to enable children and youths to understand this country better. Hence we have a right to suppose that accurate knowledge of the Holy Land and the Holy City is pretty widely disseminated. Certainly my readers already know that Jerusalem is a mountain town, 2,500 feet above the level of the Mediterranean; that it is inclosed by a wall; and that it covers but a small area, being half a mile in extent from east to west, the same from north to south, and nearly three quarters of a mile from northeast to southwest, that is, diagonally, or the longest way across the city. The streets are narrow, most of them very narrow and winding; the houses are built of stone, with the second story in some cases projecting beyond the lower story over the street; or, if they do not do so, the lattice work that is built around the second-story windows does so project, giving people inside the opportunity of seeing, unobserved, what is going on in the street below. A "straight

<sup>1</sup> The BIBLICAL WORLD, November, 1898, pp. 293-302.



A TURKISH CAFÉ NEAR THE JAFFA GATE, JERUSALEM



JERUSALEM FROM THE MOUNT OF OLIVES

street " in an ancient city was such an unusual thing that it gave rise to a special name (see Acts 9 : 11). Two centuries after Paul's time to make a straight street through a city became with some of the Roman emperors a sort of custom.

Because an ancient city was famous it does not follow, as according to our occidental ideas of such things we suppose it should, that its area was large. In modern cities everything is subservient to convenience, sanitary requirements, and beauty ; in ancient times everything was subservient to the idea of defense. In a period when fighting was chiefly by hand-to-hand encounter, the defensive means devised were very efficient.

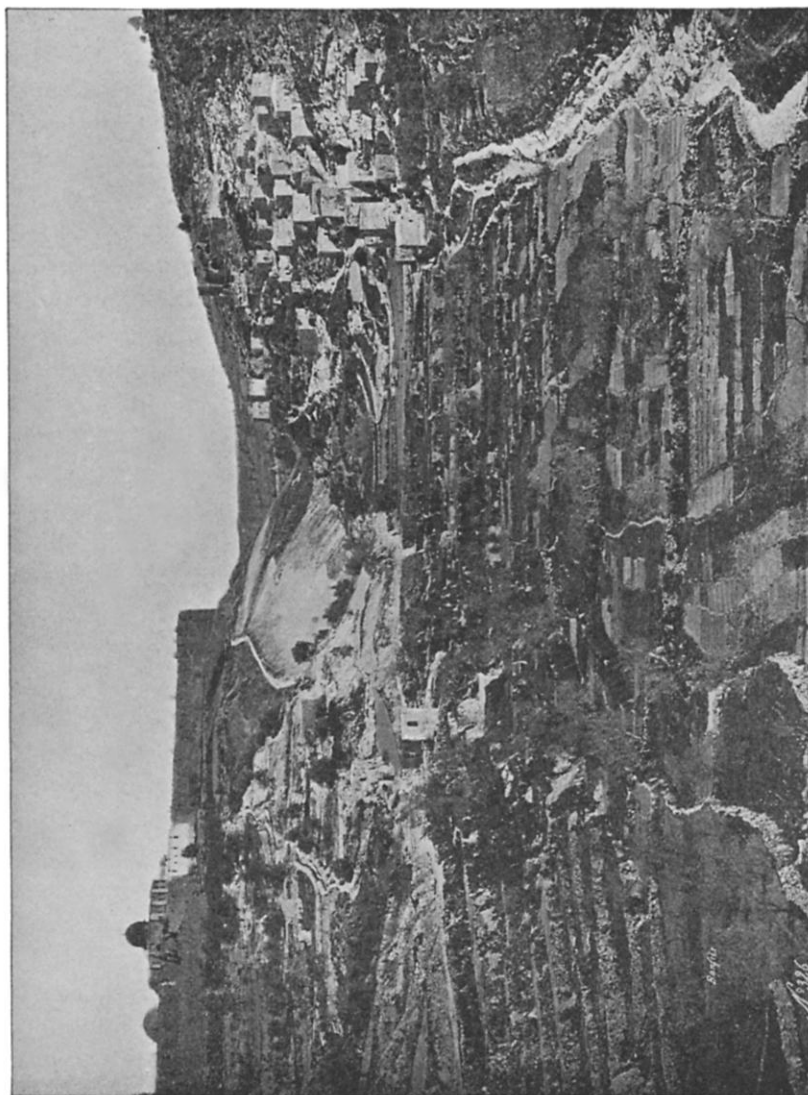
In the few facts already mentioned we have several simple but excellent examples of how archæology illustrates history : (1) A mountainous or rugged situation was chosen because it could be defended ; (2) a strong wall with massive gates was built for defense ; (3) streets were made narrow and winding, so that hostile invaders could not easily make their way through the city ; (4) straight streets were almost unknown ; (5) the second stories of houses sometimes projected over the streets so that the inhabitants from the roofs could throw down missiles of all sorts upon the enemy in the streets below ; (6) and lattice-work windows were constructed so that the occupants of the houses could not be seen, and yet by looking through could entertain themselves or gratify their curiosity as to what was going on outside. As was Jerusalem, so were scores of other oriental cities.

Continuing our walk, we are now at the west or Jaffa gate of Jerusalem. The rubbish on which the houses in this section are built is from 10 to 15 feet in depth. We go across the city to the north or Damascus gate, and the rubbish here is 25 feet deep. We go to the valley at the southwest corner of the temple area, and the rubbish is 90 feet deep ; at the southeast corner of the temple area it is 70 feet deep ; and at the northeast corner of the temple area it is 125 feet deep. The surface of Jerusalem as seen today appears uneven, but it is simply impossible for the casual observer to imagine how it looked in the earliest times, before the accumulations of centuries had filled

its valleys to their present level. The temple hill was then a long ridge of rock rising above the valleys more than 100 feet on the west side, and more than 200 feet on the east side, these two sides being almost vertical, the ridge terminating abruptly toward the south. Five or six hundred yards west of this hill there rose a sharp rock 60 or more feet in height, on which the most ancient fortress of the city was erected. The valleys about this bluff have in the course of ages been filled and leveled, and on the spot stands now the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. It has taken an enormous amount of digging to ascertain these facts, but the tireless pick and spade have at scores of points gone down through the vast overlying bed of rubbish and enabled us to state with confidence that the site of Jerusalem was, at first—within an area, we must remember, of half a mile each way—a group of rocky, rugged hills, with precipitous slopes, separated by deep and narrow valleys, a site most desirable to an ancient city-builder with whom feasibility of defense was a chief concern.

The meaning of the name "Jerusalem" has always been a puzzle, but "foundation of peace" has been widely accepted as the proper one. This would do for the ideal Jerusalem, but for the actual Jerusalem of history it was never true. Could SHLM, the last part of the compound, be varied slightly so as to mean "security" instead of "peace," we should have a name singularly appropriate to the situation and history of the place. Jerusalem was always strong, "secure," and in the great siege of A. D. 70 (to mention but one) the energies of all-powerful Rome were severely taxed to subdue it. It was this feature of the city, fortress-like on its hills, and formidable in aspect, at which "the kings marveled," and which caused them "to hasten away" (Ps. 48). From the north the approach to the city was pleasant, and this fact, added to the trees and gardens which were there planted, led David to praise the beauty of the "north side of the city of the great king" (Ps. 48).

In the many sieges that Jerusalem has undergone in 3,500 years, it was never attacked from the east, south, or west, but always from the north. The crusaders, the Romans, Herod the



VALLEY OF THE KIDRON FROM THE SOUTH

Great, Pompey, the Assyrians, and other conquering kings or armies, have always made their attacks from this direction. This fact might easily escape the notice of one who has never seen the place ; or, if in his reading of history he had observed it, he might not be able to account for it. The reason is that the slopes on the three other sides are so steep that soldiers could never approach the walls to do any execution. As I have said, the present appearance of Jerusalem is no criterion as to its appearance in ancient times, and if archæology is ignored, serious blunders are liable to be made. For example, on the north of the temple area the ground at present falls off only a few feet ; but archæology shows us that formerly it dropped down here 100 or 125 feet. Josephus says that Pompey could not approach the temple at that point because of the depth of the valley.<sup>2</sup>

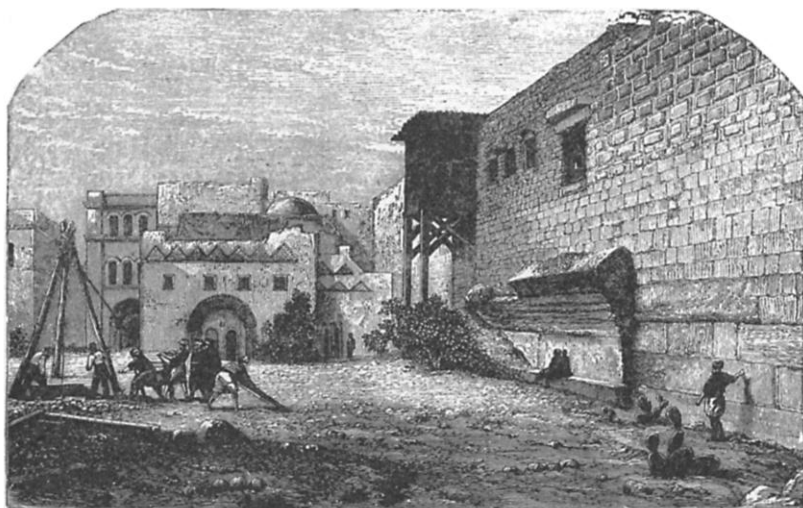
The question is frequently asked how discoveries are made. The question is pertinent and the answer interesting. Sometimes they are made simply by accident ; in other cases by long and tedious processes of investigation ; again, some clue that has been before the eyes of men for centuries is followed up and yields unexpected results.

In the middle of the city, near the Prussian Hospice, certain old columns were found built into the walls on either side of the street ; or, rather, the columns which appeared to belong to some ancient structure had been left standing, and the walls had been built between them so as to leave them exposed. The object and origin of these columns were a mystery. The theory was advanced and widely circulated that they marked the gateway of the old city through which Christ was led to crucifixion. A saintly man, now dead, whom I met during my first visit to Jerusalem thirty years ago, who had come to believe this theory, was affected to tears at the sight of these columns. He told me

<sup>2</sup> A popular author who has written a very large book upon Jerusalem, judging by surface appearance only, states that " Josephus, with his usual habit of exaggeration, has magnified a slight depression into an impassable valley." Two wrongs are thus committed : great injustice is done to Josephus, and the facts in the case are kept from his author's readers. I will not mention the name, because I mean this as a criticism of methods, not of persons.



that the first night after he saw them his feelings were so aroused in consequence that he could hardly sleep. Nothing had ever before, he declared, so deeply affected him. Examination from time to time brought to light other columns built into houses in a similar manner; and we now know for a certainty that they all belonged to a street running nearly straight from north to south through Jerusalem, which was built by the Roman emperors in A. D. 200, perhaps earlier or later, and which was lined on either side with columns. This street led out of the city on



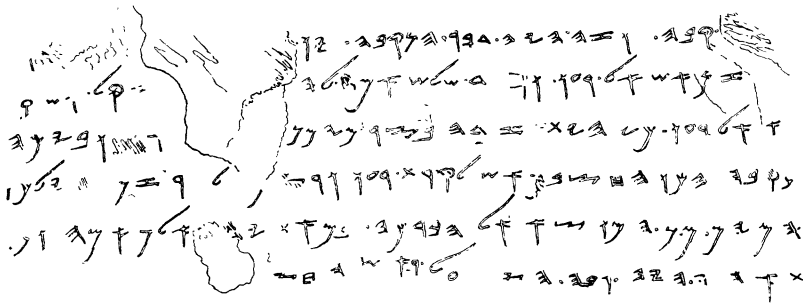
ROBINSON'S ARCH, IN THE WESTERN WALL, JERUSALEM

the north; and at the Damascus gate we have dug down twenty-five feet and found it at that depth below the present surface of the ground.

Within the Damascus gate, near the ground, there are some large stones, smoothly faced and closely laid, which appear to have formed a part of an arch. These had been visible for centuries, but no one knew their origin or use. The stones were too large and the work too fine to be assigned to any period later than the Roman or the Herodian; but if so, what was their object? The clue was followed up by digging, and the stones

were found to belong to the arch over the ancient Damascus gate.

On the outer face of the supporting wall of the temple area, at the southwest corner, there is near the ground a curious projection fifty feet long and formed of massive stones. Close examination convinced Dr. Robinson that this was the spring of an arch, but to what it belonged or how it was related to the temple area, or to any other part of the city, was not known for thirty years, till Captain Warren followed up the clue and



THE SILOAM INSCRIPTION, DISCOVERED IN 1880

[From Warren and Conder, *Survey of Western Palestine, Jerusalem*, facing p. 346.]

SAVCE's translation: "(1) (Behold) the excavation. Now this (is) the history of the tunnel: while the excavators were still lifting up (2) the pick towards each other, and while there were yet three cubits (to be broken through) . . . the voice of the one called (3) to his neighbor, for there was an (?) *excess* in the rock on the right. They rose up . . . they struck on the west of the (4) excavation; the excavators struck, each to meet the other, pick to pick. And there flowed (5) the waters from their outlet to the Pool for a thousand two hundred cubits; and (6) of a cubit was the height of the rock over the head of the excavators."

ascertained that a bridge once spanned the valley at this point. From the top of this bridge to the bottom of the valley beneath the distance was 130 feet, possibly not much for America, but certainly a great thing for ancient Jerusalem. These three examples must suffice to illustrate clues that have been followed up with marked success.

Of any method of discovery only brief examples can be given. The following will illustrate the method by accident:

1. The finding of the Moabite stone,<sup>3</sup> a marvelous record of 900 B. C., belongs under this head.
2. The Siloam inscription of the time of Hezekiah was

<sup>3</sup>See photograph of the stone, and a translation of the inscription, in the BIBLICAL WORLD, January, 1896, pp. 61-3.

brought to light in the same way. A boy was paddling in the pool of Siloam, and had entered the tunnel twenty feet farther than usual, when he saw some curious marks on the rock by his head. The light was just at the proper angle to reveal them. This was reported, examination followed, and the world knows the result.

3. In the temple the division between the court of the gentiles and that where Jews alone might enter consisted of a



A TABLET OF WARNING FROM THE TEMPLE OF HEROD

Translation: "Let no Gentile enter inside of the barrier and the fence around the sanctuary. Any-one trespassing will bring death upon himself as a penalty."

low wall, on which at intervals were stone slabs inscribed with a notice that gentiles must not pass beyond that point on pain of death.<sup>4</sup> It was for alleged disobedience to this injunction that the Jewish mob, stirred up by the Asian Jews, attempted to kill Paul (Acts 21: 28). One of these "warning stones" was found thirty years ago doing service as the headstone to a Moslem grave. An accidental discovery, but most important for illustrating history.

4. North of the Damascus gate and east of the main road a

<sup>4</sup>JOSEPHUS, *Wars*, V, v, 2.

large field is inclosed by a high and strong stone wall. Here is a beautiful church, an assembly hall, and other buildings belonging to the Dominican order. There is also a series of old rock-cut tombs, spacious and elegant, not inferior to the well-known tombs of the kings. Fifteen years ago the surface of the ground here was twenty feet higher than at present, the tombs were not known to exist, and the field formed part of an olive grove. The soil was poor and unproductive, the only income being the yield of the few old olive trees that still survived. Holes appeared now and then in the earth, and the owner at last determined to ascertain by digging what was beneath the surface. He soon came upon a vast khan, where hundreds of animals could have been sheltered. Shortly after this the land was sold, and the second owner carried on excavations in a small way. He found a church, besides signs of other buildings. Money failed, and there the matter rested. Finally the property passed into the hands of the Dominicans, and after some years the excavations were completed and the buildings which we now see were erected. The small church just mentioned belonged to the early Middle Ages. Beneath and all about it were the remains of an older and finer structure, which we now know to have been erected by the empress Eudocia (about A. D. 460) near the traditional site of the martyrdom of Stephen. The rock-cut tombs are those constructed by Eudocia, in which she herself was buried. Still lying about are sections of the massive columns which belonged to this church. Besides other objects of great interest, including other tombs, there were uncovered here three hundred square yards of the most beautiful mosaic flooring—beautiful in design, coloring, and workmanship. This section of a barren field, containing four to five acres, covered a vast amount of ancient relics of whose existence no one had ever dreamed. In the new church that has been erected here within the past three years only a few square yards of this mosaic have been preserved; the rest was sacrificed to “the exigencies of the modern structure.” In other words, ecclesiastical vandalism is just as ruthless and wicked as that of barbarian or Turk.

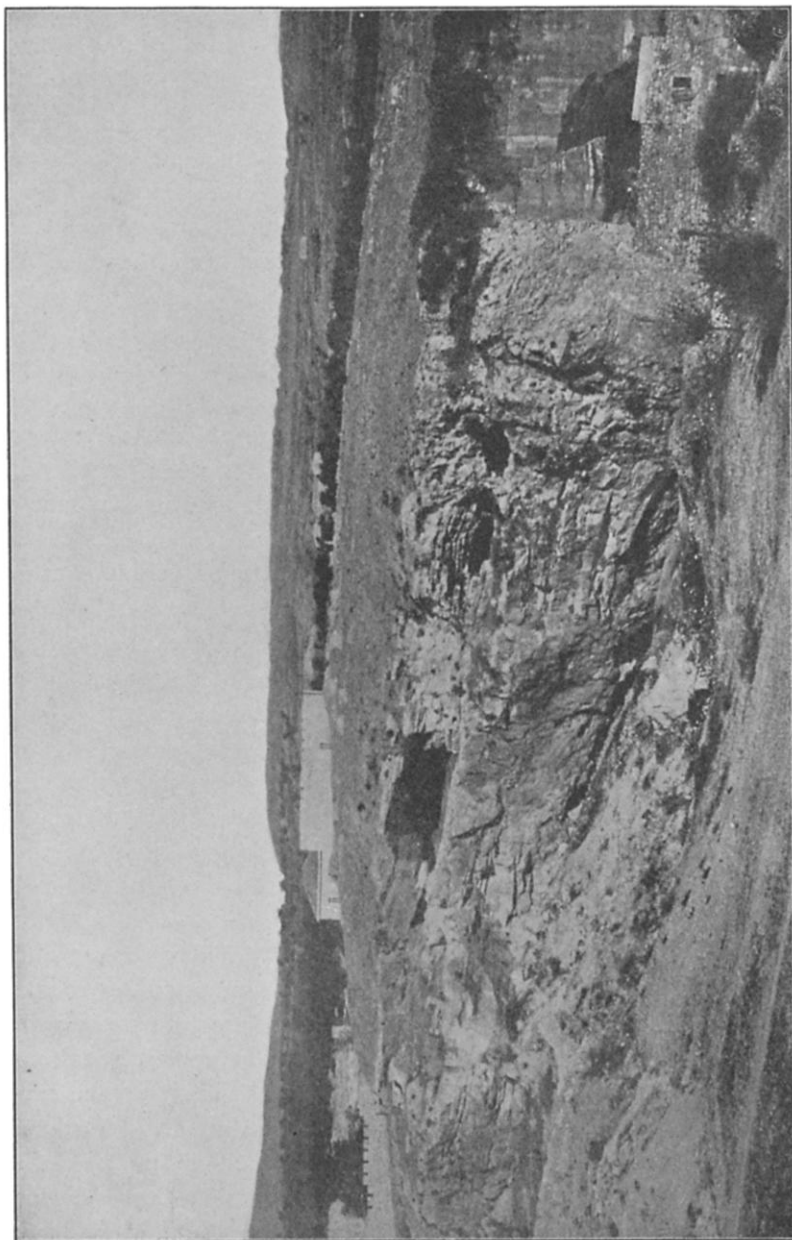
5. In describing the wall of circumvallation which Titus built

around Jerusalem to prevent the Jews from escaping, Josephus mentions "the monument of Herod."<sup>5</sup> There is no other mention of this in history. We know that it was on the west or southwest of the city. No remains of any kind exist which might give a clue to its situation. For many years I have been on the watch for any trace of what, could it be recovered, would be an object of special interest. Whenever any diggings have been made in that quarter, I have been on hand to see if by chance any stones or tombs should be brought to light which would help us in our search. The attempt to discover this monument has been altogether a futile one. The clue, however, was hit upon in the most unexpected manner. In the fine olive grove for which this particular region is noted some ledges of rock appear above the surface of the ground, and one winter, after a heavy and protracted rain, a peasant discovered a hole in the ground near one of these ledges. He went down into the hole and reported that he had found "a large stone box." Excavations were made, and a platform thirty by ninety feet uncovered; the supporting wall of this platform was formed of stones with smooth faces and joints so perfect that it was difficult to detect them, and near the platform were some large vaults designed for tombs. The doors between the rooms were massive blocks of stone shaped and fitted like mortise and tenon. The entire workmanship was of the highest order of excellence. At the outer entrance was a rolling stone, in perfect condition, six feet in diameter and eighteen inches thick, in itself one of the most interesting finds that have ever been made about Jerusalem. In the central chamber are two sarcophagi with pointed lids, on which is beautiful Jewish carving. The sarcophagi contained only dirt, dust, and bits of bone. They are noticeable as being very long and narrow; and from several measurements I am certain that a man of medium size could not possibly be laid in them. What is the conclusion? They were constructed for women who were tall and slight. These remains are on the line of the wall of circumvallation; they are about where the monument of Herod ought to be found; the earth above the platform

<sup>5</sup> JOSEPHUS, *Wars*, V, xii, 2.

and in the region gives evidence of having been thrown up in masses, suggesting that the Roman soldiers in their efforts to accomplish their purpose did not treat with any respect the monuments of dead Jews which came in their way. Here, we believe, we have the burial place of Mariamne, the lovely wife of Herod the Great, of whom he was very fond, and whom in a fit of jealousy he caused to be put to death. His passionate love for this woman, which after her death returned to him to the degree almost of madness, would naturally lead him to erect a costly "monument" to perpetuate her name.

I will now ask my companions to look out of this window. There, near the door of the Grand Hotel, is a marble column doing duty as a lamp post. On it is an inscription which tells us that it was the tombstone of Marcus Junius, an officer of the Tenth Legion, which was one of the four legions with Titus when, in A. D. 70, he captured the city. I was present when this monument was found, and instead of allowing it to be destroyed we set it up where it now stands. It is a genuine relic and takes us back to a period of awful carnage, bloodshed, and suffering in Jerusalem. This is the road by which this legion approached the city, this is the spot where it camped, this is the place of its second encampment after the city had been destroyed, and this legion was left here to do garrison duty. Here is the bathhouse which its soldiers built, these are tiles which its soldiers made and stamped with the legion's name. There, north of the city on the Damascus road, is Scopus, where Titus camped the first night after coming within sight of Jerusalem. Just along here was the road which Titus constructed so that the Fifth, Twelfth, and Fifteenth Legions could more easily advance to their final positions before the walls of the doomed city. Here stood the tower of Antonia, where Paul was safely guarded from the violence of the Jews, and whence he started on his night journey to Cæsarea — a triumphal departure, since he was accompanied by 470 Roman soldiers (Acts, chap. 23). Here stood the palace of Agrippa II., whence his sister Bernice, powerless to help, witnessed the shocking cruelties which Florus perpetrated upon her people. Here stood the palace of Herod the



JEREMIAH'S GROTTO: THE PROBABLE SITE OF CALVARY

Great ; here are the sites of the three famous castles which he built or restored on older foundations, one of which is still standing ; and here was his royal garden—curiously enough not occupied or built upon since his death. Here is the line of the second wall, outside of which Christ was crucified, and these great stones are sections of that wall. These curious flat discs with handles which we have just dug up were mirrors used by ladies of wealth and fashion, possibly as early as the time of Isaiah (Isa., chap. 3). These terra-cotta objects came from under the present south wall of the city ; they are of Jewish origin and date from several centuries before Christ. These specimens of iridescent glass from the ancient glass shops of Tyre and Sidon, marvelously beautiful, were objects of luxury during the prosperous periods of Jewish history. This pile of old coins from the soil beneath our feet belongs to many kings and different periods, and as historical monuments each, though no larger than an American cent, is as valuable as a Cleopatra's needle or a Pompey's pillar. These take us almost year by year through the period of the Maccabean and Jewish rulers ; through that of six Herods, including two Agrippas ; the period of the procurators whose money, issued during the life of our Lord, may have been handled by him ; the period of the Roman conquerors who loved to perpetuate their deeds and the humiliation of their enemies by stamping "Judæa Capta" upon their coins ; and through that of the later emperors whose "Ælia Capitolina" was an important center of the Roman world.

In our visit we could only glance at some of the discoveries that have been made within the past thirty to fifty years ; and who is so skeptical as to suppose that all the historic monuments and treasures buried in the débris under modern Jerusalem have been brought to light ? Some intelligent travelers, after visiting the traditional sites of the city, many of which carry on the surface the evidence of their own condemnation, have said to me in a tone of despair : "Is there *anything* really ancient and reliable in Jerusalem ?" But after a few facts, of which the ordinary guide knows nothing, have been laid before them, they have easily become convinced that there is here a vast number of places and objects of great antiquity and of the highest interest.